

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if multiple names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**SOYBEAN VARIETY XB55K04**

the specification of which (check one)

- is attached hereto
- was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ and was  
amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known by me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or under Title 35, United States Code, §365(a), of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below; and I have also identified below any related foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any related PCT International application, having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

NUMBER	COUNTRY	MM/DD/YYYY FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	MM/DD/YYYY FILED

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120, of any United States application(s) or under Title 35, United States Code §365(c), of any PCT international application designating the United States of America listed below:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	MM/DD/YYYY FILED	STATUS PATENTED/PENDING/ABANDONED

and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known by me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(e)).

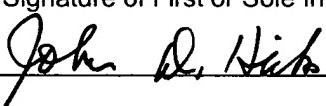
As a named inventor, I hereby appoint as my attorneys and agents, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Debra L. Blair	Registration No. 39,112
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Address all correspondence to: **Customer Number 27310.**

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**(515) 254-2823**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of First or Sole Inventor <b>John D. Hicks</b>	Signature of First or Sole Inventor 	Date <b>1/11/04</b>
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Signatures should conform to names as typewritten.

Additional inventors on attached page 4.